



Kol Yad (Every Hand) Annual Campaign

To ensure the health and vibrancy of our congregation this year and every year to come, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will launch Kol Yad, our first annual Every Hand campaign, to be held this year from May 6 to June 3.

The theme of the Kol Yad annual fundraising campaign is unique, and is tied to the values that make our community strong. In the spirit of the spring harvest and the Jewish imperative to share the gleanings of one's field, members and friends of CSZ will be invited to pledge to the congregation the monetary equivalent of one day of work during the course of the campaign period. By doing so, our community can insure our congregation's financial viability for the year ahead.

Kol Yad addresses our synagogue's ongoing need to fill the significant gap between our core revenue base (primarily dues) and the reality of our actual costs. The financial challenges we face are growing - from rising utility bills to the added staff and other costs we incur to meet the spiritual, programming and

continued on page 13

Meet the Candidates for Congregational Elections

On Sunday, June 3, Sha'ar Zahav members will elect a new set of officers and Va'ad members at our annual congregation meeting. With thoughtful input from many people in the congregation, the nominating committee has put together a slate of candidates which we are delighted to recommend. Some have been asked

to continue in positions they were elected to last year or to take on additional responsibilities; others would be new to the Va'ad and bring fresh perspectives.

Candidates for officer positions are: Lisa Katz, President; Arthur Slepian,

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Tikkun Leil Shavuot All-Night Study

Countdown to Sinai

Sunday, May 27, 9 pm - Monday May 28, sunrise

After counting the Omer from Pesach to Shavuot, our preparation for Revelation intensifies in the final hours. Join in the kabbalistic (and now Sha'ar Zahav) tradition of all-night study leading up to the reading of the Ten Commandments on Shavuot morning.

How do we reaffirm our commitment to Torah and its study? We will start with a Shavuot Service at 9 pm, followed by text study, chanting, meditation and song through the night (punctuated by physical activity and food breaks). Come learn with our Rabbi Camille Angel and other community teachers. Our celebration will conclude with the reading of the book of Ruth, the Ten Commandments and a special sunrise Shacharit (morning) service.

Take advantage of the calendar; this is the Sunday night of Memorial Day weekend. Rest through your Shabbat and Sunday nap, then ready yourself for the blessings of engagement and revelation.

Havdalah Under the Stars: Meet that special someone with a twinkle in the eye

Saturday, May 19, 6:30 pm - 8 pm. \$10 Admission. At a private home. RSVP to Howard Steiermann (415/695-9155, HSteiermann@aol.com). No one turned away for lack of funds.

Continuing in the tradition of "100 Dates in One Night," CSZ is pleased to announce Havdalah Under the Stars. Mix and mingle with other GLBT singles at a casual get-together on Saturday, May 19 from 6:30 - 8 pm at the home of one of our synagogue members in Noe Valley.

We'll nosh and schmooze. We'll mark the end of Shabbat with a very short Havdalah service. You'll meet other nice Jewish boys and girls to whom your mother never dreamed of introducing you! You'll have a stellar time.

So, tell your friends. Schlep them along. Trust me, they'll have a great time.

Town Hall Meetings to Discuss Alban Institute Report

Two town hall meetings have been set to discuss the report from Sam Leonard, the organizational consultant from the Alban Institute. If you were unable to attend the meeting at which Sam Leonard originally presented his findings and would like to get a copy of his written report, please contact the office.

The town hall meetings will take place on Sunday, May 6 at 11 am and on Tuesday, May 8 at 7 pm. We hope that you will take the time to think about the contents of the report and to give us your feedback. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings please make your thoughts known by contacting one of the Va'ad officers or members.

We need your help to plan the future of our synagogue!!



Rabbi Angel

Across the United States, Jews come together every week to sing and pray in a wide variety of worship communities. Through this music, made by and for ordinary people, these worshippers define and re-define their relationship to the continuity of Jewish tradition and the realities of American life. Whether it's melodies that are hundreds of years old, drumming that stirs people to sway and dance or the rousing singing of young people on a Friday night on a university campus, music is a fundamental part of the Jewish religious service.

I have invited my colleague, Rabbi Jeffrey Summit, to share ideas from his new book, *The Lord's Song in a Strange Land: Music and Identity in Contemporary Jewish Worship*, during our Shabbat service on Friday, May 11. Rabbi Summit, director of the Hillel Foundation at Tufts University since 1979, studied five Jewish congregations in the Boston area. We welcome Rabbi Summit as part of our month-long Celebration of the Arts program here at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Rabbi Summit's d'var Torah, "Sanctifying the Secular: How Popular Melodies Entered Jewish Liturgy," will help us put into perspective our own preferences and melodies, which are informed by the wide variety of religious backgrounds we bring to Sha'ar Zahav. During my months here, I have heard from our congregants - some whom attend regularly and some who only attend occasionally - about their own musical preferences

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CSZ Endowment Fund Benefits from the Estate of Norma Faini-Pick

"When Congregation Sha'ar Zahav starting building three blocks from my home, I took it as a sign from God." Norma Faini-Pick, red diaper baby, Freedom Rider, longtime activist for progressive causes, hadn't spent much time on religion until she found us. She started showing up at services, took adult education classes and quickly became a regular. At a new member potluck she confided, "I'm not getting any younger. I figure it's time I got to know God. And, more importantly, God should get to know me."

Norma originally joined CSZ "to find my third husband," but acknowledged it was unlikely given our demographics. She was a demographic unto herself: our congregation's Auntie Mame, full of wonder and approval for all our uniqueness, everyone's instant chum. She peppered Rabbi Richman with provocative questions, giggled and gossiped with new friends, and borrowed a wig from Joe Hample for our Chanukah gong show.

Her generosity of spirit was matched by her material generosity. She was semi-retired and lived on Social Security, but was the first to donate whatever she could towards subsidies for the seder, to sponsor an oneg or to make a holiday contribution.

Several months after becoming a member, Norma said that she felt as though she was on her honeymoon,

and was changing her will to leave her condominium to Sha'ar Zahav.



Sadly for all of us, Norma died suddenly on April 24, 2000. She had participated in the CSZ Passover seder only a few days before her death. Norma was interred in the Sha'ar Zahav section in Hills of Eternity Cemetery in Colma. Her headstone will be unveiled at 4 pm on Thursday, May 3. Anyone wishing to honor Norma's life and spirit is encouraged to join us for the memorial prayers.

Norma's apartment was recently sold, and her generous bequest benefitted the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund was created fifteen years ago to ensure the financial health of the Congregation. The Fund is governed by an Endowment Board that oversees its investments and distribution. The Endowment Board is comprised of the five most recent past presidents who are able to serve. They currently are: Richard Inlander, Allan Gold, Tiela Chalmers, Diana Buchbinder and David Stein. In July of 2001, David Gellman will join the Board and Richard Inlander, an initial founder of the Fund, will retire. Both the Board and the Fund operate according to bylaws which are independent from the bylaws of the Congregation. The CSZ Va'ad does not have authority over the Endowment Board and cannot disperse Endowment Funds independent of the Endowment Board.

From 1987 to 2000, CSZ's Endowment Fund grew slowly through the generosity of a few planned gifts. During 1998-1999, the Board voted to lend much of its capital to the Mishkan Dolores Fund, anticipating repayment within five years. The Board's decision was based on accepted uses of Fund monies: the purchase of a building for CSZ is an asset for the Congregation's future.

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A Healing Concert of Sacred Dance and Song

May is Jewish Healing Month, so please join CSZ and the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center for an afternoon of music, dance performance and prayer with Marsha Attie and Friends on Sunday, May 6, 4-5:30. The weeks between Passover and Shavuot are filled with metaphors, texts, ritual and communal gatherings that help us in our spiritual journeys; cantorial soloist Marsha Attie will help us experience creative ways to enrich this precious time in our calendar. Bring your friends and family! Suggested donation is \$18.00. No one is turned away for lack of funds.

Diversity is CSZ



David Gellman

This will be my next-to-last column in the *Forward* as president of Sha'ar Zahav. My final column will be filled with thank-yous to the people I have met and worked with over the past two years. Other than the obvious worry of leaving someone out, it should be a breeze to write.

This column is much harder. It is really my final chance to speak to you as CSZ's president, to give you my thoughts on what has become, for me, the most important part of my experience as a member of our congregation over the past twenty years.

I assumed from the beginning that I understood the meaning of "diversity" as it applied to Sha'ar Zahav - that we formed ourselves in 1977 as a minority within a minority, determined to ensure that gay and lesbian, and later bisexual and transgender Jews, would have a place to worship, to celebrate, a "home of our own."

I assumed Sha'ar Zahav diversity meant an acceptance, sometimes a blending, of different Jewish worship traditions - Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, stand for the Sh'ma, sit for the Sh'ma, Hebrew, English, Ashkenazim, Sephardim, Litvak, Galitzianer, glat kosher to my personal kashrut rule "Thou shalt not cook a shrimp in its mother's milk."

I thought our tradition of diversity meant an acceptance of Jews by birth, Jews by choice, of Gentiles considering a choice, and of our non-Jewish partners and families. Of members who studied Talmud in the Old Country (Brooklyn) and those who learned EST in the New World (San Rafael).

Shows you just how wrong a president can be. Of course, CSZ embodies all these aspects of diversity, and many more, but in partaking of the beauty of this forest, for a long time I failed to see one of the trees, the Sequoia that stands tallest at Sha'ar Zahav - our unique commitment to diversity of minds, demonstrated year

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Mishebeirach List

It is very important to us that our Mishebeirach list be kept updated and accurate for all those concerned. Please call Lea Salem when you would like to have a name added to this list for a healing prayer.

We now include both the name of the person in need of a healing prayer and her or his relationship to the individual who requested that the name be added to the list. By including that relationship, we make it easier for members of our community to express their support and concern to those among us who are in need of healing or who have friends or family in need of healing.

Every name on the list will be read for a four-week period, unless other arrangements are made with the office. Should you wish to have the person's name continue to be on the list after four weeks, please call the office again.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we hope this new method will keep our list more accurate for the people on it as well as for their friends and families. Thank you for your cooperation.

New Member Welcome Dinner

Why is Sha'ar Zahav like red curry?

- A) Both are warm and comforting.
- B) It takes a lot of different ingredients to make both delicious.
- C) Both will be the topic of discussion at the next Third Friday Night Welcome Dinner.

The answer is: All of the above!

The Membership Committee warmly invites you to an informal pre-Shabbat dinner at Bangkok 16 (3214 16th Street between Dolores and Guerrero) on Friday, May 18 (and every following third Friday of the month). This "pay-your-own-way" dinner is a great way for new and prospective members - and "seasoned members" for that matter - to break bread and get to know members of the community on a more personal level. We meet at CSZ at 6:15 pm and then walk over to the restaurant around 6:30 pm. For more information or to RSVP, please contact: Marc Wernick (415/928-7883; mhwernick@aol.com).

Celebrate Shavuot with Adult B'nei Mitzvah Students

The Adult B'nei Mitzvah class invites you to two very special services. On Saturday, May 26, Prudence Carter, Avraham Giannini, Bruce Kapsack and Clarissa Kripke will be called to the Torah, and on Saturday, June 9, Laura Lowe will celebrate her Adult Bat Mitzvah. The services will represent the culmination of our group study and preparation.

The Adult B'nei Mitzvah class has been meeting weekly under the guidance of Devra Felder Noily, Phyllis Mintzer, Init Gafni-Pinchovski and Rabbi Camille Angel. Together we have studied basic Hebrew, Prayerbook Hebrew and a variety of core topics in Judaism. Many others have joined us in this study, and they too will be called to the Torah, when they feel ready.

The celebration and service on May 26 will coincide with the Shabbat prior to Shavuot. Shavuot is a particularly fortuitous time to celebrate a ritual of reaffirming Jewish commitment. What started out as an agricultural holiday evolved into a time of study to commemorate the day the Torah was revealed to the Jewish people at Sinai. The Confirmation ceremony was introduced in 1847 by the Reform movement as the ritual practice for Shavuot. Confirmation is a celebration for Jews who undertake serious study of Judaism with the emotional and intellectual maturity of adulthood. The members of the Adult B'nei Mitzvah class are taking this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to Judaism, and to receive the blessing of our holy community.

Romantic Music for Mother's Day *by Lisa Ochs*

The final concert in our celebrated and celestial Music in the Mishkan 2001 series, "Romantic Masterpieces," will be held on Sunday, May 13 at 4 pm. This concert features music by two Jewish composers: "Two Chasidic Dances for Violin and Cello" by Zikmund Schul and Felix Mendelssohn's String Quartet in D major. The concert also includes Brahms' Clarinet Quintet, one of the most beautiful pieces of music ever written.

Zikmund Schul, a Jewish Czech composer, sought refuge from the Nazis in Prague, but was sent to Terezin after the invasion, where he died in 1944 at the age of 28. The Chasidic Dances are compelling (and sexy) settings of typical Chasidic melodies.

Felix Mendelssohn's grandfather was the great Jewish scholar, Moses Mendelssohn, but Felix's father converted to Christianity for social and financial advantages. Felix Mendelssohn's music is known for soaring melodies and this string quartet is exceptionally melodious.

The Brahms Clarinet Quintet was composed by Brahms for a woman he loved. Sadly, even this heartbreakingly beautiful piece did not melt her heart, but generations of music lovers since have been moved to tears by this soaring and transcendent work.

Our own Randy Weiss, CSZ member, violinist, and founder and organizer of the Music in the Mishkan Series, will be featured in the concert with fellow musicians Maya Sorian, Janet Sims, Peter Gelfand and Rob Bailes.

This is a perfect late-afternoon Mother's Day treat for all. Ticket prices: \$10-\$25 sliding scale for adults, \$5 for seniors and disabled. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Tickets will be available at the door. The concert will be followed by wine, cheese and schmoozing.

Thank you, Randy, for putting together this wonderful concert series for the second year in a row and bringing more music into our lives!

Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Summit: "Sanctifying the Secular: How Popular Melodies Entered Jewish Liturgy"

Shabbat Services, May 11

Style of worship can be a major factor in making prayer meaningful and fulfilling for many Jews. Musical style affects whether people feel at home in the synagogue or uncomfortable and alienated from communal prayer. Learn how and why various Jewish communities around the world have selected secular music for prayer and the nature of the spiritual experiences they strive to create through their transformation of secular melodies into sacred prayers.

Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Summit is the Director of the Hillel Foundation and Adjunct Professor of Music at Tufts University, where he also teaches ethnomusicology and Judaic Studies. Dr. Summit is an accomplished musician who has performed Jewish and traditional American music throughout the United States, England and Israel. He is the author of *The Lord's Song in a Strange Land: Music and Identity in Contemporary Jewish Worship* (Oxford Press, 2000).

CSZ Poet Laureate Dan Bellm to Read

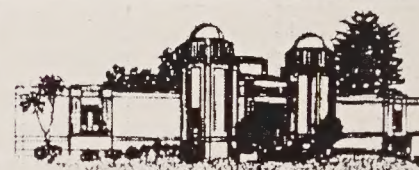


As part of our month-long Celebration of the Arts here at CSZ, we are thrilled to be hosting a poetry reading by our

own Dan Bellm. Please join us for what promises to be a wonderful evening on Wednesday, May 23 at 7 pm. Several of Dan's poems are included in our new siddur and have become part of the CSZ liturgy. Dan has led several services this year integrating contemporary poetry into the Shabbat liturgy.

Dan Bellm teaches with California Poets in the Schools. Two collections of his poetry appeared in 1999: *One Hand on the Wheel*, chosen to launch the California Poetry Series from Roundhouse Press, and *Buried Treasure*, which won the Poetry Society of America's Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award in 1995, and was published by Cleveland State University as the winner of its annual Poetry Center Prize.

Dan has also won a California Arts Council poetry fellowship, and has been nominated for a 2000 Pushcart Prize. His poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Ploughshares*, *TriQuarterly* and other magazines, and his translations of fiction and poetry from Spanish have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies.



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**Do you have items for
the Naches Column?
We'd love to publish
them. Please contact the
office and give us your
good news!**

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Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

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- **Printing:** Genesis Printing & Graphics
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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

May 2001 Volume 24, Issue 8.



"That's A Family!" Coming To CSZ!

By reflecting the true diversity of American families, "That's A Family!" breaks down intolerance and promotes true understanding."

- U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer

Sha'ar Zahav is thrilled to sponsor a screening of the award-winning documentary "That's A Family!" by our own Debra Chasnoff and Helen Cohen on Saturday, May 12 at 6 pm. The film prominently features one of our own families: Stacey Shuster and Joan

cies including the Girl Scouts of America, the YWCA and the National PTA. The film's producers have also been trying to get the film used in elementary and middle schools throughout the country.

This movie will be a mirror for some children, enabling them to see their families reflected back to them for the first time. For others, it will be a powerful window, letting them look into families different than their own to gain a fuller picture of the world.

This movie is enjoyable for both children and adults. The screening will be preceded by a Havdalah service and followed by a panel featuring Debra Chasnoff, Helen Cohen and Josh Shuster-Lefkowitz. There is a suggested donation of \$7-\$15. All proceeds will benefit Family Education at CSZ.



Lefkowitz with their children, Josh and Mara. This movie, named Best Documentary at the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and First Place Winner of the National Council on Family Relations Media Award, is a refreshing look at children being raised in an array of family structures: single parent, multiracial, divorced, guardian, adoptive, and gay and lesbian-headed households. The film is narrated by and stars children and has been embraced by educators, religious leaders and community agen-

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May-Iyyar/Sivan

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
				1 8 Iyyar	2		
				• 7-9 pm - Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class • 7-8:15 pm - Beginning Yiddish 1B • 8:30-9:45 pm - History of Yiddish Literature	• 4 pm - Kadima • 7 pm - Newsle		
6 13 Iyyar		7 14 Iyyar		8 15 Iyyar	9		
• 11 am - Town Hall Discussion • 4-5:30 pm Healing Center Concert with Marsha Attie • 7 pm - Newsletter Layout		• 2-3 pm - Healing Service with Bay Area Jewish Healing Center		• 7-9 pm - Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class • 7 pm - Town Hall Discussion • 7-8:15 pm - Beginning Yiddish 1B • 8:30-9:45 pm - History of Yiddish Literature	• 4 pm - Kadima • 7 pm - Dues C		
13 20 Iyyar		14 21 Iyyar		15 22 Iyyar	16		
• 4 pm - Music in the Mishkan		• 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting		• 7-9 pm - Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class • 7-8:15 pm - Beginning Yiddish 1B • 8:30-9:45 pm - History of Yiddish Literature	• 4 pm - Kadima		
20 27 Iyyar		21 28 Iyyar		22 29 Iyyar	23		
Family Retreat				• 7-9 pm - Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class • 7-8:15 pm - Beginning Yiddish 1B • 8:30-9:45 pm - History of Yiddish Literature	• 7 pm - Poetry with Da		
27 Erev Shavuot 5 Sivan		28 Shavuot 6 Sivan		29 Shavuot 7 Sivan	30		
• 9 pm - Erev Shavuot with Rabbi Angel and Leslie Kane				• 7-8:15 pm - Beginning Yiddish 1B • 8:30-9:45 pm - History of Yiddish Literature			
		Tikkun Leil Shavuot All-Night Study					

JUNE DEADLINE MONDAY, APRIL 30 AT 5 PM

ARTICLES

Please submit your articles as a Word attachment file via email to: kschiller@igc.org. No late submissions will be accepted.

ADVERTISING

To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

Please note that dates, times and locations sometimes get changed after the *Forward* is published. Call the office if you need upda

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
3 10 Iyyar • 7-8:45 pm - Introduction to Judaism	4 11 Iyyar • 7:43 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Sarita Groisser and Jon Pannor Meet the Candidates Oneg	5 12 Iyyar Shabbat Acharai Kedoshim • 9 pm - Torah Study • 9:30 pm - Kadimah • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Clarissa Kripke, Leslie Kane and Avraham Giannini • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah
10 17 Iyyar • 6:30 pm - Adult Ed Meeting	11 18 Iyyar Lag B'Omer • 7:49 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel, Eileen Levy and Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Jeffrey Summit	12 19 Iyyar Shabbat Emor • 9 pm - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah (last day) • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Prudence Carter and Bruce Kapsack • 11 am - Kadimah Family Picnic • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah • 3 pm - Singing Havurah • 6 pm - Screening of <i>That's a Family</i>
17 24 Iyyar • 6:30 pm - Adult Ed Meeting	18 25 Iyyar Family Retreat • 7:55 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Sandy O'Neill	19 26 Iyyar Shabbat Behar Bechukotai • 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Alan Gordon and Josh Shuster Lefkowitz • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah • 6:30 pm - Havdalah Under the Stars
24 2 Sivan • 6:30 pm - Ritual Committee	25 3 Sivan • 8:01 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel, Annie Downs and Jonah Levy	26 4 Sivan Shabbat Bamidbar • 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class Reception after Services • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah
31 9 Sivan		

East Bay Services

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Social Action Committee Celebrates Purim at Senior Outreach Tenderloin Lunch

On March 16, CSZ members in conjunction with Jewish Family and Children's Services served a Shabbat lunch at the North of Market Senior Center in the Tenderloin. As always, this was a joyous and lighthearted event, with lots of delicious food, singing, kiddush and motzi, and much talk and laughter. Thank you to Nicole Bloom, head of the Ritual Committee, for leading the Shabbat blessings. CSZ members Gail Ludwig, Florence Nacamulli, Allan Berenstein (and his brother Burt), Lonnie Weiss and Lisa Ochs served up chicken, side dishes, drinks and delicious hamentaschen for our guests. Please consider joining us at our next Tenderloin luncheon. This is an enjoyable event and a way to meet warm-hearted and fascinating San Franciscans from a huge variety of backgrounds. It only takes a couple of hours and is very much appreciated.

Please call Allan Berenstein at: 415/863-8033 or Dahlia Gross at 415/575-4961 for information on the next Tenderloin lunch.

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President's Column

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after year by our long and sometimes painful tradition of argument and debate, of compromise and negotiation, of frustration and forgiveness, of respect for individual thought and feelings that is the history, and will always be the future, of this congregation. Whether the issue is Israel, fund-raising, kids, sexism, class, music, curriculum, color scheme, round bimah, square bimah, polka-dot bimah - you name it - we meet in committee, Va'ad, town hall; we agree, we disagree; we Advance, we retreat; we argue, we facilitate, we process; we persuade, we are persuaded, we bend, we hold fast; and yet somehow we never say to each other, "If you don't agree with me, leave!" To me, this is the true measure of diversity at Sha'ar Zahav, that in a congregation born out of difference, we respect the differences of thought and feeling among ourselves. To me, this is what holds us together.

As our congregation continues its ongoing discussions about our future, in particular on how, or even if, we will continue to grow in membership, budget, clergy, staff, programs and facilities, I know that this rich CSZ tradition will serve us well. For my part, I hope that Sha'ar Zahav's doors will always be open and accessible to each and every person who is drawn towards our culture of diversity, and that by working together, we will always find a way to preserve and amplify the spirit of our community, so that it remains available to anyone and everyone who wants to become a member of our mishpachah, of our family, of our diversity of mind and spirit.

David Gellman

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GENE B. KAUFMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**In this season of the harvesting
of the sheaves, we join hands to
make our community stronger.**



The *Kol Yad* Campaign is designed to enable you to support Congregation Sha'ar Zahav creatively and personally by sharing from the harvest of your own individual work. Here are some ideas:

- A corporate employee or sole practitioner could donate an amount equal to one day's pay. Divide your annual salary by 250. It's that simple!
- A person with an hourly job could work one extra hour per day for a week during the campaign, and donate that amount.
- A person with a retail store could earmark a specified percentage of profits during the campaign period.
- A family could hold a garage sale and donate the proceeds.
- Someone retired or on disability could participate in the campaign in various ways as a volunteer.
- Kids could create a one-day fundraising project (car wash, etc.).

From strength to strength:

Kol Yad: Every Hand

The theme of our *Kol Yad* annual fundraising campaign is unique, and is tied to the values that make our community strong. In the spirit of the spring harvest and the Jewish imperative to share the gleanings of one's field, we invite members and friends of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav to pledge the monetary equivalent of one day of work during the campaign period, May 6 to June 3. By doing so, our community can insure our congregation's financial viability for the year ahead. Make your contribution now by sending in the pledge form below.

The Kol Yad Celebration:

**Please join us
Sunday, June
3rd at CSZ,
immediately
following the
Annual Meeting
of the
Congregation.**

**Yes, I/We want
to contribute a
day to make our
congregation
stronger.**

**Please accept
my/our *Kol Yad*
Pledge of:**

Name(s)

Address

Phone

☐ I'd like to participate as a *Kol Yad* volunteer. Please contact me.

Method of Payment:

☐ Please Bill Me

☐ Check Enclosed

Tell us something about your work,
or the day you are contributing:

Signature

Get Ready to Roll! Ron Wilmot Bike Ride for Project Inform

Mark your calendar and ride for a reason in the seventh annual Ron Wilmot Bike Ride on Saturday, May 12. This seven-mile fun ride through Golden Gate Park brings the community together to raise funds for Project Inform's national HIV/AIDS treatment education programs.

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As bike rides go, the seven-mile Ron Wilmot Bike Ride may not be the most demanding athletic event, but it is a very special one. Ron Wilmot was an extraordinary individual. In addition to being a real estate entrepreneur, HIV/AIDS activist and avid cyclist, Ron Wilmot was the key person responsible for locating the space on Dolores Street that now so beautifully houses Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Ron Wilmot wanted to create a way for people who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to become involved with Project Inform and learn how they could improve their health or the health of someone they care about.



The Ron Wilmot Bike Ride embodies Project Inform's and Ron's message of actively participating in one's health and ensuring that others receive vitally important HIV/AIDS treatment information.

All registered riders receive a cool t-shirt, plenty of snacks at the ride, a thank-you bag of goodies and a chance to win a Grand Prize: a trip for two to St. Thomas,

Virgin Islands (courtesy of American Airlines and the spectacular Inn At Blackbeard's Castle). Additional generous prize drawing incentives are offered to riders who raise \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,000 and above. All winners will be selected by raffle drawing immediately following the ride, so you must be present to win.

To register as a rider or make a secure donation, please visit the Project Inform web-site at:

www.projectinform.org or contact Ride Coordinator Julie Doherty at 415/558-8669, ext.223, or via email at: jdoherthy@projectinform.org We hope you can join other CSZ members on May 12 for fun, for health and to support a good cause!

Contributions

Adult Education Fund

Dorothy Querido, in memory of John Atteridg.

Marjorie Hilsenrad, in memory of Molly Hilsenrad, Rebecca Hilsenrad and Esther Polies.

Children's Education Fund

Jos and Bon Singer, in honor of Greer Hauptman's acceptance to Brandeis University.

Ruth Schoenbach and Lynn Eden, in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.

Harvey Milk Social Action Fund

Daniel Langholtz, in support of CSZ's participation in Sukkot in April.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman, in honor of Ira Hirschfield's birthday.

Rabbi Angel's Discretionary Fund - Anonymous.

Henry Carrey, in memory of David Carrey.

Dan Najjar, in memory of Hayim ben Shlomo Najjar HaLevi.

Henry Carrey, in memory of Frahl Post.

Maxine Borowitz.

James Carlson.

Henry Carrey, in memory of Neil Stansky.

General Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Max Radetsky.

Ed Lopatin, in memory of Paul Anderson.

Brian Jersky, in memory of Leon Boolkin.

Colette Patt, in memory of Yvonne Phyllis Patt.

Larry Wexler, in memory of Clara Blumenthal.

Ed Lopatin, in memory of Florence and Aaron Lopatin.

Ellen Berger Quan.

Larry Wexler, in memory of Regina Broudy.

Jerome Nodiff.

Irene Ogus, in honor of James Carlson.

James Carlson, in honor of Ira Hirschfield's birthday.

Joshua and Gella Fishman, in honor of Shmulik Fishman's becoming bar mitzvah.

Ed Lopatin, in honor of Jim, Lori, Eliana and Ben Sagarin.

Sally Poolat.

Larry Wexler, in memory of Regina Broudy.

Matthew Schreiber, in memory of Frances Schreiber.

Jean and Norm Katz.

Michael Sarid, in honor of Mike Rankin's new home.

Larry Wexler, in joy and appreciation at the birth of Ro'e Lev, son of Hilary Zaid and Lauren Augusta.

Jay Kerzner.

Larry Wexler, in memory of Jack Wexler.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerardo Joffe, in honor of Irene Ogus.

Peter Warhit.

Russell and Carol Tat, in memory of Beatrice Leben.

Seth Charney, in memory of Nettie Charney.

Julia Bloch.

Sharyn Saslafsky, in memory of Ruthy Levy.

Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman, in memory of John Atteridg.

Shelley Adler, in memory of Shoshanah Adler.

Larry Wexler, in joy and appreciation at the birth of Rafael, son of Susan Lubeck and Richard Weiner.

Drew Parker-Rose.

Natalie and Jim Jalenak.

Michael Sarid, in honor of Leslie Kane's being named Executive Director of the Holocaust Center.

Susan Tubbesing, in memory of Ann Kohout.

Condolences

Susan Schwartz on the death of her uncle, Joe Vogel.

Kirsten Gustavson on the death of her grandmother, Merle Lehmer.

Richard Sinkoff on the death of his friend, Edwin O. Robson.

Nina Wouk on the death of her friend, Duke Estes.

Carol Cantwell on the death of her grandmother, Sara McGrane.

Robert Cohen on the death of his cousin, Ruthy Levy.

Sharyn Saslafsky on the death of her friend, Ruthy Levy.

Daveners & Doers

Editorial Note: Announcing a new column for the Jewish Gaily Forward: *Daveners and Doers*. The bi-monthly interviews, which will alternate with the "Why is this Member Different From All Other Members?" column, will recognize and show appreciation for unsung heroes of the synagogue. If you have nominations for a "Davener & Doer," please contact Marc Wernick (415/928-7883, mhwernick@aol.com).



In our first interview, we honor Richard Inlander. Richard has served in many leadership roles at CSZ, including recorder, vice president and president. He was a founder of the Sha'ar Zahav Endowment Fund, started the Gift Shop, and, together with Paul Cohen and Irene Ogus, established the CSZ Cemetery. Today, he is the chair of three committees: Bequests and Donations, Bylaws and the Cemetery.

In the following interview, Richard shares his thoughts on the synagogue.

JGF: Richard, when did you join the synagogue?

Richard: It is a wonderful coincidence that the synagogue was formed just as I come out as a gay man! Sha'ar Zahav was formed in 1977, and I joined around 1978. I had the feeling that CSZ was created just for me!

JGF: How did you decide to go from "Jew in the pew" to a "macher"?

Richard: For about 5 years, I would occasionally come to synagogue with my lover, Teddy Mendonca (z"l). In March, 1984, Teddy died and I wanted to say kaddish for him every week. How can you go every week and not want to help? So, I pitched in with oneg cleanup. Over time, people noticed me.

JGF: What have been some of your proudest moments at CSZ?

Richard: I am especially proud of the CSZ Cemetery. When we founded the cemetery 11 years ago, it was the only Jewish cemetery in the world that allowed same-sex couples to be buried

as a couple. We have also established a communal grave for cremation. Without this service, people without the financial means would not have been able to have a final resting place in our community's cemetery.

Also, I am very proud of the Endowment Fund. The fund creates a solid foundation for the future financial viability of the synagogue. We have had some interesting bequests, including "the Hollywood files": unsigned contracts for Hedy Lamar to star in "Gone with the Wind." It is very satisfying to speak with synagogue members, working with them to ensure that the charitable-giving portion of their estate proceeds is used in accordance with their wishes.

JGF: What has been your greatest source of satisfaction?

Richard: The best thing about CSZ is the people. I really cherish my friendship with Irene Ogus. I was her VP and she was mine - something very unusual in our history. But, then again, Irene is very special. Over the years, I enjoyed getting to know our rabbis as people and as my friends. I recall my breakfast meetings with Yoel Kahn when we

would talk about being fathers. I also have to give credit to Ben Schalit, "my rock". He is the smartest person I know - both common sense and about life. He completely understands and supports my role in the Jewish community and has given me the strength to do it.

JGF: What are you currently working on for the synagogue?

Richard: We are working on a complete overhaul of the bylaws that will be presented to the membership at the June annual meeting. There are a lot of details that need to be modernized. The bylaws should reflect how things work, not how they worked in the past.

JGF: What words of advice would you give to people who want to become more active in the synagogue but who are not sure what the first step is?

Richard: Go to services. Go to the oneg. Don't be shy. Don't be put off by people talking amongst themselves. It is easy to get the impression CSZ is "clique-y." But it is not. People at CSZ are just genuinely happy to see their friends and catch up. But if you are open to meeting new people, people will be open to meeting you and will ask you to get involved. If you are the shy type, volunteer to help at a social event. Set up chairs. You don't need to say anything; people will come up and say hi. And your work will be appreciated.

Are you inspired by Richard's involvement? Here are some highlights of the ways for you to share your talents and lovewith the community:

- Welcome new members. The Membership Committee's mission is to help members feel connected to CSZ. We do this by hosting special events, making welcome calls to new members, holding monthly Shabbat dinners and greeting at services. Contact Marianne Balin (510/655-8969, mbalin@aol.com).
- Are you a macher in the San Francisco small business community? If so, or even if you are not, you can sell advertising space in the *Forward*. The rates are low, the demographics are good. The ads are easy to sell and you get to meet some really interesting people along the way. Contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209, froslyn@earthlink.net).
- Help CSZ members in time of need. The Bikkur Cholim group helps synagogue members when they are in need of support. Go shopping or cook meals for someone who is sick or help set up for a shiva minyan when a family member passes away. The needs are as varied as the members of the synagogue, but the sense of helping a friend is the same warm glow. Contact Allan Berenstein (415/863-8033, sfdaytimer@aol.com), Avraham Giannini (415/563-0812, moriano@itsa.ucsf.edu) or Deborah Udin (415/334-0441, Deudin@aol.com).

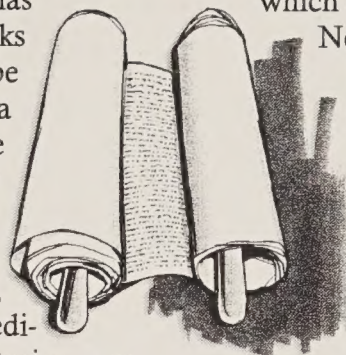
Shavuot - Etz Chaim Hi by Nina Wouk for the Ritual Committee

On Shavuot, when we celebrate receiving the Torah, what exactly are we celebrating? Torah has many meanings: the five books of Moses written by a scribe on parchment, rolled into a scroll and kept in the ark; the writings of the Hebrew Bible; or the Hebrew Bible and the Talmud; or all of these plus midrash, tosefta, folklore, Rashi, various medieval and modern commentaries, novels based on stories found in all of the above, archaeological reports . . . and more. People trying to reclaim Jewish women's wisdom speak of the "Torah of our lives" because so little of women's experience has been recorded. Torah, which literally means "teaching," has expanded as Jewish learning has expanded. There is no single definition, because the meaning changes with the context.

"Etz chaim hi," is what we sing when returning the scroll to the Ark. Torah is a tree of life; it branches as it grows through time. The root is the event at Mt. Sinai, which we reenact on Shavuot. A midrash tells us that the entire Jewish people of all generations were present at Mt. Sinai - or rather, are present, because the revelation is not a one-time event but an eternal one.

For most of Jewish history, Jews believed in a literal revelation at Mt. Sinai, in which Moses saw the whole tree, extending into eternity, with every twig of interpretation that would ever exist. The traditional belief is that the five books of Moses record only a minuscule portion of this revelation, leaving the rest to be rediscovered by Torah scholars over the course of countless generations. These scholars create "oral Torah." Some of it takes written form, but remains oral Torah, because Moses was not the one to write it down.

Among the people of biblical Israel, prophets supposedly continued Moses' tradition of hearing and transmitting God's word. While the Second Temple was standing, however, prophecy ceased, and the sages of that time compiled the Hebrew Bible from sources they considered ancient and



holy. There was great resistance to writing down their own opinions, which they considered less holy.

Not only would the act of writing be considered arrogant; preserving a rabbi's decisions about how to live risked making a permanent, inflexible rule of what might have applied only to a single case. Rabbis' rulings became the first definition of oral Torah, teachings that were transmitted verbally, from teacher to student.

The last tractate of the Mishna, Pirkei Avot, records the belief that the oral Torah was spoken by God to Moses, then by Moses to Joshua and so on through many generations of sages. Finally, the burden of rabbinic wisdom became so staggering that to preserve it through the accidents of history required writing down at least a very condensed synopsis. The process of recording, which begun nearly two millennia ago by Yehuda haNasi, is far from complete.

A fixed text becomes frozen in time, tied to a single set of circumstances, of only historical interest. Yet we need the fixed text of the written Torah - its unchanging words that bind Jews together throughout time and space, a template for each generation's needs, hopes and fears. These needs, hopes and fears interact with the text to become oral Torah, keeping the ideas and values of the fixed text alive, experienced anew in terms of contemporary problems and knowledge.

Ideas last only as long as people understand them. Values last only as long as people try to live by them. To be eternal, the Torah must remain oral: flexible and capable of development. By remaining "oral," Torah remains "ora" - light - a source of guidance.

For those who stay up all night on Shavuot, the morning may bring an echo of the eternal moment Moses experienced. For all of us, our studying Torah and trying to live it keeps it an ever-branching tree of life.

Kol Yad continued from page 1

educational needs of our congregation. The annual Kol Yad campaign will engage each of us in true community spirit to insure that this gap is always filled.

The Kol Yad campaign is designed to allow you to support CSZ creatively and personally by sharing from the harvest of your own individual work. You participate in whatever way is most comfortable for you. For example:

- ▶ A corporate employee or sole practitioner could donate an amount equal to one day's pay.
- ▶ A person with an hourly job could work one extra hour per day for a week during the campaign, and donate that amount.
- ▶ A person with a retail store could earmark a specified percentage of profits during the campaign period.
- ▶ A family could hold a garage sale and donate the proceeds.
- ▶ Someone retired or on disability could participate in the campaign in various ways as a volunteer.
- ▶ Kids could create a one-day fundraising project (car wash, for example).

How can you be one of the founding participants in this groundbreaking new campaign? It's easy.

- ① Fill out the Kol Yad pledge form included with this newsletter, and mail it in.
- ② Fulfill your pledge any time between now and June 3.
- ③ Be thanked along with all of the other Kol Yad contributors at a very special Spring Harvest Celebration open to the entire congregation, to be held at CSZ on Sunday, June 3, immediately following the congregation's Annual Meeting. We invite everyone to come and celebrate, to learn more about the program, and to thank everyone who contributes to make our first Kol Yad campaign a success.

"Many hands make light work." Create a bountiful spring harvest for CSZ this year by being a Kol Yad pioneer. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Arthur Slepian (415/452-9143) or Susan Unger (415/863-3717) of the Fundraising Committee.

May Anniversaries

- 16 Ann Bauman and Kelly Thiemann
- 22 Phyllis and George Mintzer
- 23 Rabbi Camille Angel and Karen Segal
- 24 Alison Scott and Alisa Weiner
- 27 Jo-Ellen & David Kaiser
- 29 Mark Freeman and Ken White
- 31 Ilana Bernstein and Diane Desmond

Classifieds

NEED A HOME:

CSZ Program Director and her two well behaved canine friends, Pablo and Spirit, need a home. Please contact Dahlia Gross at cszdahlia@yahoo.com or 415/575-4961 with any leads.

HOUSE FOR RENT

JUNE 22 - JULY 20, 2001:

Noe Valley with garage, large master bedroom, amenities, garden, near 24 and J-MUNI. Perfect for a couple or mature single; reduced rent for taking care of cat and plants. Contact: mongoman2@aol.com or 415-255-9200

HEBREW/TORAH

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Private tutoring/groups. Over 100 satisfied customers since 1999! Contact Kenny Altman at 415-379-9783, kennyaltman@kennyaltman.com.

ALL THINGS MACINTOSH:

Internet making you crazy? Mysterious freezes? Troubleshooter for hire! Improve Performance. Software Support/Tutoring/& More. References. Roslyn 510/526-1209

PSYCHOTHERAPY:

Life transition, grief and loss, HIV/AIDS, substance use, mood disorder, dot-com angst. Jody Reiss, LCSW (#LCS15289), 415-401-9482.

Former CSZ member and Bat Mitzvah, now in college, is seeking house-sitting or sublet for the summer. Care for your plants and dogs, available from mid-June to mid-September. Contact via email to drbillinkoff@amherst.edu

May Birthdays

- 1 Avner Lapovsky
David Ramos
- 2 Rena Frantz
- 3 Sean Hornby-Finch
Julie Stahl
- 4 Eileen Dunn
Jeff Rubin
- 5 David Blumberg
Colette Patt
Barbara Rinkoff
- 6 Aaron Buchbinder
Henry Carrey
Mercedes Navarro
Alison Scott
- 8 Zoe Kaiser
Shelley Samuels
- 9 Ruth Newstat Dreisbach
- 10 Rabbi Camille Angel
Gabriele Kassner
- 12 Kailin Koch
Sophie Navarro
- 13 Mark Reisbaum
- 14 Richard Allman
Judith Metcalf
Claire Rappoport
- 15 Arnie Jackson
- 17 Buz Bernstein
Antoinette Rose
David Schnur
- 18 Yona Barth-Rogers
David Stein
- 19 Ashley Levy-Kreisel
- 20 Lillian Schaechner
Rick Wilson
- 21 Rose Mallia
Jerry Rosenstein
- 22 Marilyn Brown
Jan Medina
- 23 Barbara Cymrot
Nancy Feinstein
- 26 Bob Katz
Harper Rose
- 27 Nancy Epstein
- 28 Sherie Koshover
- 29 Trudi Hauptman
- 30 Mark Gershman
Aarin-Ivriah Schlosberg
- 31 Gabriel Speyer

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Richard Hazel

Grant Stern

Avi Goldberg and Will Garcia

We are happy to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Naches

To **Tiela Chalmers, Michael Frank and Kailin Chalmers Koch** on the birth of Eliana Tali Chalmers Frank.

To **Jo Hirschmann** on her naming ceremony.

To **Patricia Lin** on being invited to participate in a panel on "Religious Pluralism in the Lives of Pacific and Asian North American Women" at the Pacific School of Religion, Graduate Theological Union.

To **Jonathan Katz** on his new position as Associate Professor in the Department of Art at SUNY Stony Brook. (We'll miss you!)

To **David Shneer** on his tenure track appointment as Professor in the History and Jewish Studies Departments at the University of Denver. (We'll miss you and Greg!)

To **Jake Wirtschafter** on his new position as Assignment Manager at Tech TV.

To **Greer Hauptman and Aaron Nacamura** on their graduation from Midrasa, and to Greer on her graduation from the SFHS Havurah as well.

Oneg & Flower Sponsorship

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat and/or flowers in recent weeks:

- 3/16 Oneg by **Paul Cohen** in loving memory of his father, Joseph Cohen.
- 3/23 Oneg by **Dan Halpern** in loving memory of his mother, Esther Halpern.
- 4/13 Oneg by **Johanna, Liam and Sydney Klaiman** in honor of the synagogue's helping their parents get through the first year.